

APPLYING TO THE IRAQI FULBRIGHT PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Eligibility and Application Process

If I am an Iraqi citizen living outside of Iraq, can I apply?

No. The scholarship is available to Iraqi citizens who are currently living in Iraq.

Who should I contact during the Fulbright application process?

In the first instance, review the comprehensive information available on the Fulbright Iraq website at <http://iraq.usembassy.gov/iraq/fulbright.html>. If your questions are not answered, please use the Fulbrightiraq@state.gov e-mail address to pose questions.

If I applied in the past and was not selected, do I need to complete a full application to reapply?

Yes, you will need to reapply for the program. You may use the same documents you used in your past application, but you must resubmit them in an online application available on the U.S. Embassy website.

How are the candidates selected from the applicant pool?

Applications are judged on their merits in this open competition. They are reviewed independently by a bi-national academic selection panel comprised of Iraqis and Americans.

What is the difference between the Institutional TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and the Official TOEFL test?

The Institutional TOEFL test or ITP is often used as a practice test for the Official TOEFL exam and gives an approximate indication of English language ability. The Official TOEFL test is more precise at measuring language ability and U.S. universities require an Official TOEFL test from every candidate before they can be considered for admission. More information about how to register for the test and where it is offered can be found at the AMIDEAST website at <http://www.amideast.org/offices/iraq/default.htm>

Is there a minimum TOEFL score requirement to apply for a Fulbright grant?

As you will be competing for admission to U.S. graduate school against academically able students from around the world as well as from the United States, there is a minimum score of 550 to have a competitive application. In some fields of study, a higher TOEFL score is expected to be competitive.

How will I know if I am chosen as a Fulbright Grantee?

You will be notified of your status as a Principal or Alternate candidate, or that you were not selected after the technical and academic review process are completed. Once designated as a principal or alternate, your candidacy is still contingent on having a "G" numbered Iraqi passport, acquiring a valid J Visa, being successfully admitted to a U.S. college or university (via a placement organization, not on your own), and receiving

approval from the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Once these requirements are fulfilled, you will be offered your Fulbright Grant for your approval and signature.

Field of Study

How important is the selection of my intended field of study?

You should carefully select your intended field of study. The field of study you indicate on your application is the field of study you will pursue in the U.S. and cannot be changed. U.S. university web sites provide a wealth of information for interested applicants to see how their proposed field of study is described and taught at U.S. graduate schools. Your proposed field of study may be called a different name or be housed in a different department than you are used to within the educational system in Iraq. Time invested in describing your proposed field of study clearly and accurately will greatly assist placement officials in identifying the best possible "fit" or course of study match for your academic background.

Can I get a Fulbright Scholarship to study medicine?

No. But, applications to study all aspects of public health will be considered.

Preparing for a Fulbright Scholarship

When should I be prepared to leave Iraq and travel to the U.S.?

Most grantees will travel to the U.S. in July for a short Fulbright pre-academic program. However, some grantees may need to arrive in the U.S. as early as May to take some preparatory classes relevant to their field of study. You will be notified by the Fulbright Office in Baghdad if you are expected to arrive in the U.S. early.

What about my passport?

All Fulbright grantees will need a G or H Iraqi passport. Ideally, your passport should be valid six (6) months beyond the end date of your Master's degree program, which is usually two years in duration. At a minimum, your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your intended arrival in the United States.

Are dependents allowed on the Fulbright Program?

No, dependents are not allowed on the Iraq Fulbright Program so it is imperative that you discuss this issue with your family and that you prepare yourself for this time away.

Can I travel internationally during my Fulbright grant period?

Yes, you are able to travel outside of the U.S. during vacation periods at your institution while you are on the Fulbright Program. Please note that you will need to have a valid J-1 entry visa for returning to the U.S. to continue in your studies and that it may take considerable time to obtain an updated visa. Neither the Fulbright Program nor IIE is able to assist you with the process of renewing your J-1 visa.